Amendment and Response
Applicant: Michael C. Robinson et al.
Serial No.: 10/633,804
Filed: August 4, 2003
Docket No.: 200207438-1
Title: COMPUTER DATABASE ACCESS

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 7, 15, and 21 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-9, 11-17, and 21, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiya US Patent No. 6,950,864 in view of Essential SNMP, by Douglas Mauro et al. October 15, 2001.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "an agent receiving said unique identifier from said management application and storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable with the management application," with "said agent receiving said data type from said management application and storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database."

With this Amendment, independent claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the apparatus includes "a first network device providing a management application" and "an agent configured to monitor said second network device," wherein the agent is configured to "receive said unique identifier from said first network device and store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable with the management application."

With this Amendment, independent claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the apparatus includes "a network management station," "a device operatively coupled to said network management station," and "an agent programmed to monitor said device," wherein the agent is programmed to "receive said unique identifier from said network management station and store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable by the management application."

With this Amendment, independent claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "an agent receiving said unique identifier from said management application

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and storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable by the management application."

Accordingly, with this Amendment, independent claims 1, 7, 15, and 21 have each been amended to clarify that the restricted intermediate database is a database which is distinct from the database of interest and is a database to which access is unavailable by the management application. For example, as described in the Specification at page 2, lines 2-3, "[t]he present invention provides systems and methods for the access of data in databases that may be otherwise inaccessible." More specifically, as described in the Specification at page 2, lines 9-13, "the present invention is directed to systems and methods for use of a unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database, where the restricted intermediate database can be used to store a group of objects pertaining to a database of interest to provide access to any record in the database of interest."

In addition, as described in the Specification at page 2, lines 15-16, in an embodiment of the invention, "a management application creates an object for indicating a unique identifier that identifies a data item," and as described in the Specification at page 2, lines 18-23, "[t]he data item may be but is not limited to a data item that is stored in, or is to be stored in, a restricted database of interest, i.e., a database to which access is unavailable via existing methods of using standardized access systems, e.g., SNMP; the Telnet protocol; and various World Wide Web browsers such as Microsoft Corp.'s INTERNET EXPLORER and Netscape Communication Corp.'s NETSCAPE." Furthermore, as described in the Specification at page 2, lines 16-18, "[t]he management application may be but is not limited to a management application used in Simple Network Management Protocol ("SNMP")." As the restricted database is defined as "a database to which access is unavailable via existing methods of using standardized access systems, e.g., SNMP," and the management application is defined to include a management application used in SNMP, the restricted database, therefore, includes a database to which access is unavailable by the management application. As such, support for the above amendments are provided at least at page 2 of the Specification.

With the above amendments, independent claims 1, 7, 15, and 21, therefore, each include an agent (1) receiving a unique identifier for a data item, a data type for the data item, and an action to be performed on said data item from a management application or network device/management station, (2) storing the unique identifier and the data type in a restricted

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intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable with/by the management application, and (3) <u>issuing</u> an action command to the database of interest to perform the action on the data item using the stored unique identifier, the stored data type, and the action, whereby the agent (4) <u>receives</u> a response from the database of interest and <u>sends</u> the response to the management application or network device/management station.

With respect to the Tsuchiya and Mauro references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do <u>not</u> teach or suggest a method for accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 1, do <u>not</u> teach or suggest an apparatus for accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 7, do <u>not</u> teach or suggest an apparatus for accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 15, and do <u>not</u> teach or suggest a computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing a method of accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 21.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 7, 15, and 21 are each patentably distinct from the Tsuchiya and Mauro references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-6 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 8, 9, and 11-14 further define patentably distinct claim 7, and dependent claims 16-17 further define patentably distinct claim 15, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-9, 11-17, and 21 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-9, 11-17, and 21 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Nathan Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

IP Administration
Legal Department, M/S 35
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400
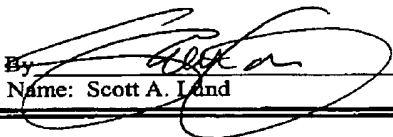
Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Robinson et al.,

By,

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, PLLC
Fifth Street Towers, Suite 2250
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 573-2006
Facsimile: (612) 573-2005

Date: FEB. 26, 2007
SAL:hsf

Scott A. Lund
Reg. No. 41,166

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Name: Scott A. Lund

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